



HISTORY COMES ALIVE... *Citizens get a glimpse of 1840s Rockville under the new Dawson Farm Park Shelter. The shelter is a “ghost structure” of the former Dawson Farm Granary, which was demolished in 1977. The park shelter features informational signs and artifacts found during construction on the property, such as wagon wheels. Pictured below, nearby the shelter are two aluminum benches inspired by trees planted by Fannie Dawson, who lived on the farm for four decades.*

Dawson Farm Park Features History, Art

Mayor and Council Dedication is Sept. 18

Dawson Farm Park, one of Rockville’s historic sites, has some new additions: the recently completed granary shelter for picnics and other outdoor activities and two aluminum artist-designed benches from Rockville’s Art in Public Places program.

The construction of the shelter was inspired by the granary that once stood on the historic farming site called Rocky Glen, which housed four generations of Dawsons and was farmed from the 1840s through 1979. Dawson Farm Park was created from donated land from the Dawsons, and with the two remaining farm houses, is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places.

The shelter will soon feature display cases that will house artifacts such as tools and everyday items from the original farm. In the rafters, are wagon wheels from the earlier years on the farm. Historic markers

are also in place offering information about the park’s past.

Nearby the shelter are the newly installed benches, “American Holly Bench” and “Flowering Dogwood Bench.” They were designed by Baltimore artist Rodney Carroll. The benches were inspired by trees planted by Fannie Dawson, who moved to the farm in the early 1900s and oversaw it until her death in 1948. The large curved benches were first carved in wood, then fabricated in aluminum for permanence. Stamped into the seating are the English and Latin names of the tree species.

The artwork and shelter will be dedicated by the Mayor and Council on Sept. 18 at 11 a.m.

Dawson Farm Park is located at the end of Fleet Street in Rockville. For directions, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/parks-facilities/dawson.htm. ■



Water – Rockville’s Great Resource

When More Water is Needed – Rockville Will Be Ready

Glen Mill Pumping Station Increases Capacity

Construction of a new pumping station at Glen Mill Road will enable the Rockville Municipal Water Plant to produce up to 14 million gallons of water each day to meet the City’s needs. Currently, the plant’s capacity is eight million gallons per day.

The increase in water production is necessary to provide sufficient water for residents and businesses as Rockville continues to grow. Even with conservation efforts such as the Washington Council of Government’s “Water–Use it Wisely” campaign—in which the City is a partner—and other existing conservation programs, Rockville needs to increase water treatment production to meet the development level in the Master Plan adopted by the Mayor and Council in 2002.

Future developments and re-development programs that will increase demand in water include Rockville Town Center, the impending Twinbrook Commons development and the planned Stonestreet Avenue redevelopment.

Most planned Rockville developments of the future will include some residential units. Residential customers use more water than commercial.

Rockville’s Water Plant Superintendent

William Sizemore said, “Although we will be able to pump up to 14 million gallons per day, we will only reach that capacity during periods of heavy drought.”

During the drought of 2001 and 2002, the pumping station was pushed to its maximum capacity of eight million gallons per day.

Construction on the Glen Mill pumping station is scheduled to start in September and is expected to be completed in summer 2005. The project includes construction of new vertical turbine pumps, discharge piping and valves, new pump variable frequency drives, instrumentation and controls.

A new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System will be implemented as part of the project. This will link the new pump station with the water treatment plant and three water tanks in the city. In addition, this new system will provide information and control for two sewage pump stations in the city using the water treatment plant as control center.

“City residents will see no change in their water pressure or service,” said Sizemore. ■

CALL **240-314-8556** FOR MORE INFO

Raining in Water Runoff

Workshop on Barrels Offered Oct. 16

Rockville resident Bob Dixon Gumm knows all too well about stormwater runoff. Whenever a heavy rainstorm passes through the City, the water from an alley adjacent to his home on Maple Avenue rushes straight to his basement.

“Knee-deep water with many things floating,” Dixon Gumm described his basement after a typical heavy storm.

He and his wife, Penny, have installed two sump pumps inside to handle the flooding. They have added underground pipes with drainage tiles to direct the water from the gutters away from the house. Three ponds on their property help manage the runoff.

After talking with the City of Rockville’s former environmental planner, Pam Rowe, to find more alternatives, the Gummss are considering trying rain barrels as another solution.

The City is encouraging residents to use rain barrels to collect water for a variety of reasons, including control of water runoff. For those who want to learn more, Rockville’s Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the College Gardens community, will hold a free seminar called “Build Your Own Rain Barrel.” The workshop, originally planned for Sat-



Bob and Penny Dixon Gumm are among those willing to try natural solutions to control rain water runoff.

urday, Sept. 25, will now take place on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 9 a.m.- 12 noon at the Rockville Senior Center. The seminar will be limited to 30 people.

The rain barrel workshop will describe the function of rain barrels and how they can improve a lawn and garden, reduce water bills and help the environment.

The Gummss said they like the environmental aspect of reducing water usage and saving money on their water bill, watering their garden with natural, chemical-free water and of course, reducing the harmful effects of stormwater runoff. Their neighbors suffer similar flooding experiences and also are open to the idea of rain barrels. ■

CALL **240-314-8500** FOR MORE INFO

Rec and Parks Projects

GENERAL PROJECTS

City Hall Improvements • Reorganization and renovation of second and third floor interior spaces of City Hall as well as the Bouic House (adjacent to City Hall) for improved use efficiencies • Contract has been awarded. Construction expected to begin in fall • Design in final stage for City Hall • Construction on the Bouic House has begun • The project is expected to take approximately 18 months.

Civic Center Long Range Plan • Feasibility study underway to identify adequate and accessible parking, vehicular and pedestrian access and storm water management on the Civic Center grounds • Study and design recommendations to be completed by winter 2004-05.

Dawson Farm Park • Granary construction has been completed in historically sensitive manner to serve as a park shelter/gazebo • Artwork and historic markers have been installed • Renovation of wooden bridge is 90 percent complete • Re-dedication of the park is scheduled for Sept. 18.

Dog Park • Design has been incorporated into the King Farm 28-acre park • Final design to be completed this fall • Rockville Dog Owners Group (RDOG) continues to participate in the planning process.

Energy Performance Contract • Energy savings project for City facilities through the Maryland Energy Administration's energy performance contract • Equipment replacement is 80 percent complete. Lighting replacement, HVAC restoration and thermostat replacements are 100 percent complete. Planning and installation of the energy management system is 50 percent complete • Completion of all installations is expected by the end of October.

Gude Drive Facility Improvements • Modernization and expansion of the City's Public Works and Parks maintenance complex in four phases • Phase I includes replacement of salt dome, storm water management upgrades, access improvements and improved debris storage • Construction documents out to bid this fall.

I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge • Separate bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists parallel to Route 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Avenue and Nelson Street bikeways • TEA-

21 grant for \$3,124,421 received from State Highway Administration • Bids received exceeded budget • Design being revised and will be re-bid in the fall.

James Monroe Park • Pathways throughout the park will be re-laid • Benches will be replaced • Contract out to bid • Work to begin in the fall.

King Farm Farmstead • Requests have been sent out for proposals to convert the hay-drying pole shed into a picnic shelter • All work will be in compliance with task force recommendations and with Historic District Commission approvals.

King Farm 28-Acre Park • Details of the park plan have been completed, incorporating comments from the public and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board • Final design to be completed this fall.

Millennium Trail • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road • Construction began in summer and is expected to be completed in fall • Veirs Mill Road to Edmonston Drive currently in design • Majority of cost for both projects covered by TEA-21 grants awarded by Maryland State Highway Administration.

Playground Equipment Improvements • Replacement equipment at Maryvale and Elwood Smith parks is being designed with input from neighborhood children • Equipment installation is expected to begin in fall.

Rockville Senior Center • Expansion of dining room and kitchen renovations and improvements • Funding support from Maryland Office on Aging and Rockville Seniors, Inc. • Construction is underway and expected completion this fall.

Science Center Feasibility Study • Will study design and site options, program feasibility, services and funding opportunities for proposed new Rockville Science Center • Task Force made up of Science Consortium Board members and residents have begun meeting • Consultants are under contract • Study to begin this fall.

Urban Forest Renewal • Removal of aging and hazardous trees in Twinbrook, Fallsmead, Potomac Woods and other neighborhoods is ongoing • Replacement plantings take place in the spring and fall.



CREATING FUN FROM THE GROUND UP... *Neighborhood children are helping the City create fun-filled playgrounds by sharing their ideas for new equipment planned for Maryvale and Elwood Smith parks. The new structures, planned for installation this fall, may include a place to swing from, as the children enjoy (above) at a park near the Montrose Community Center.*

Public Works Projects

GENERAL PROJECTS

Cabin John Parkway Dead End • Project has been completed.

TRANSPORTATION

Baltimore Road Traffic Calming • Raised intersection at Woodburn Road • Construction planned for late summer/early fall.

Bike/Pedestrian Improvements • Maryland Route 28 and Great Falls Road intersection improvements are under construction • Mannakee Street sidewalk to be constructed in early fall • Nelson Street crosswalk for access to park to be constructed spring 2005.

Fallsgrove-Funded Transportation Improvements • Majority of the projects are complete • Those yet to be finished include Gude Drive and Gaither Road (September); I-270, Maryland Route 28 and Nelson Street (fall) • I-270 and Shady Grove Road (August 2005).

Hurley Avenue Traffic Calming • Intersection modification at Sherbrooke. Work scheduled for late summer/early fall.

Median on Maryland Route 28 between I-270 and Hurley Avenue • Construction expected to be completed end of September.

Right Turn Lane West Bound at Research Boulevard • Construction of second right turn lane to Research Boulevard construction underway.

Traffic Signal at Preserve Parkway and Wootton Parkway • Construction underway in August.

Watts Branch Parkway Traffic Calming • Design underway • Construction improvement at Aintree Drive in spring.

STREAM AND STORM-WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Alsace Lane Stream Restoration • Design underway on 500 feet of stream in the Rock Creek drainage area • Construction planned for spring.

Carnation/I-270 SWM Retrofit • Modify existing stormwater management facilities to implement stream erosion control and improve 600 feet of stream in Watts Branch drainage area • Design underway • Construction planned for summer 2005.

College Gardens Low Impact Design (LID) SWM Study • Surveys distributed to the residents in August • Consultants are evaluating the pros and cons of various LID techniques on public and private property to improve Watts Branch water quality and reduce runoff in this area • Series of meetings with the community will be held to explain LID techniques, describe the benefits and limitations and to get feedback from residents.

College Gardens Low Impact Design (LID) SWM Grant Implementation • Workshops on rain gardens and rain barrels will be held Oct. 16 • College Gardens Civic Association and the College Gardens Garden Club are soliciting the neighborhood to find volunteers to implement LID techniques on private property.

Frost Stream • 1,600 feet of stream between Thomas S. Wootton High School and Robert Frost Middle School and down to Scott Drive will be restored • Construction to be completed by October.

North Horners Lane Stream Improvement • 200 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Construction is planned in winter 2005.

RedGate Golf Course Northeast Park Stormwater Management Retrofits • Modify existing SWM facilities and improve 600 feet of stream in Rock Creek drainage area • Two ponds are on the golf course and the other is next to Gude Drive • Construction to begin in fall and to be completed in fall 2005.

Woottons Mill Stream Improvement • 4,400 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Stream restoration is from Watts Branch Parkway to Wootton Parkway in Woottons Mill Park • Pedestrian access is to be maintained • Construction will start in January.

UTILITIES

Adclare Water Main Replacement • Approximately 620 feet of six-inch water main in Adclare Road will be replaced with eight-inch water main • Design has started and construction is expected to begin in early 2005.

North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement • Water main upgrade planned between Southlawn Lane and Westmore Avenue • Construction to begin in fall.

Sewer Rehabilitation • Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring and video inspection of underground piping for the southeastern area of Twinbrook, has been completed and the results are being evaluated • Prioritization of repairs will be based on cost effectiveness • Schedule for construction has not been set.

WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Glen Mill Pump Station • Project will provide the additional pumping capacity needed to provide sufficient water supply to the entire Rockville water system • Construction will begin in September and will take one year to complete.

Water Tank Cathodic Protection • Two steel water tanks (located on Hunting Hill and Carr Avenue) will be rehabilitated to add a corrosion-resistance system to extend the life of the tanks • Project will be deferred until fall 2005 due to the excessive cost proposals received • Project will be advertised for a second time in summer 2005 • Work will be done sequentially at each tank.

Water Treatment Plant • Major upgrade in the treatment plant to allow a maximum daily production of 14 million gallons is essentially complete • Construction of covers over the filter wells is complete • An emergency generator will be added in fall • Improvements to sludge handling facilities are being studied.



BEAUTIFYING THE CITY... *Eagle Scout Mike Gentry (second from right) leads an Eagle Scout project to refurbish the landscaping and path surrounding the Art in Public Place's "Map of Rockville" located at Broome Park on Twinbrook Parkway. The artwork was installed in 1990 and was designed by Steven Weitzman. Also pictured, from left to right, are fellow scouts Scott Yamada, Mike Barga and Taronte Venable.*

Input Sought for Low Impact Stormwater Management Solutions

Survey of College Gardens Residents Assesses Understanding and Interest

Rockville is surveying College Gardens residents to assess their understanding of watershed protection and interest in pollution reduction. The City will use the responses to determine what stormwater treatment measures might have the greatest benefit to Watts Branch and widest appeal to residential and business property owners in the College Gardens area.

Consultants with Biohabitats, Inc., and the Center for Watershed Protection are conducting surveys and field investigations for Rockville's Department of Public Works as the first step in the study of Low Impact Stormwater Management Approaches for the College Gardens neighborhood. This initial assessment will be conducted through November.

College Gardens water runoff drains into Watts Branch, the largest stream system in the City. The Department of Public Works, in cooperation with College Gardens community groups, is investigating alternative measures to reduce the volume and pollutant levels of stormwater runoff leaving yards, parking lots and streets. Urban areas typically have high pollutant levels such as phosphorus, bacteria, oil and grease, which degrade fish and insect habitat in the streams. Ultimately, this pollution affects the aquatic life and water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

The consultants will look for runoff patterns, pollution sources and good locations for small water quality treatment features such as rain gardens and downspout outfalls on vegetated areas. Generally, the consultants will make their observations from the public streets. If they need

to examine drainage patterns within private properties, they will first attempt to verbally notify the owner. The consultants may take photos of buildings, parking areas and yards. The City will not use survey or field work results for property management control or code enforcement purposes.

During this winter and the following spring, the City and the community will evaluate the pros and cons of various measures at several public meetings. The College Gardens Civic Association and the Garden Club are seeking volunteers to try small-scale water quality improvements on their properties with some cost-share assistance. These pilot projects will be constructed over the next year.

First SWM Study Meeting Planned For Sept. 29

City of Rockville Public Works staff members will be at the Rockville Senior Center on Wednesday, Sept. 29, from 7:30-9 p.m. to discuss the College Gardens Low Impact Stormwater Management Approaches Study.

The staff will discuss ways people can improve the area's water quality as well as the City's ongoing evaluation process and how this integrates with the College Gardens community's efforts to have residents try new methods for improving stormwater management.

For project information, contact the City's project manager, Lise Soukup, of the Department of Public Works. ■

CALL 240-314-8515 FOR MORE INFO

Rockville Brings Light to Making Crosswalks Safer

Rockville is a growing city, but growth also can bring congestion. One of the most difficult challenges for communities like Rockville is how to make walking and biking safer while also keeping traffic moving smoothly.

For the past three years, the Mayor and Council have set this challenge as one of the key elements of their strategic plan.

The City has been working on innovative and traditional methods—in neighborhoods and the downtown area—that will slow traffic and increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Some of the methods you may have seen, or likely will in the coming months, include the following:

- **Illuminated crosswalks:** Rockville has two innovative crosswalks that make pedestrians highly visible to oncoming drivers. The newest illuminated crosswalk is at Chapman Avenue near the Twinbrook Metro station and the Doubletree Hotel. Another is on Twinbrook Parkway near the entrance to the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. When activated by a pedestrian or cyclist, lights in the pavement flash to illuminate those crossing. If flashing, vehicles must safely stop and allow pedestrians to cross.
- **Fluorescent yellow "paddle" signs in the middle of the street:** Most of the highly visible signs are generally located within Town Center, in school zones and near crossings used by pedestrians headed to Metro stations. The signs identify high volume pedestrian crossing areas. Drivers approaching crossings should proceed with caution. They must stop for pedestrians attempting to cross the street.
- **Pedestrian activated traffic signals:** These special signals not only change lights to allow quicker crossing, they also are designed to make crossing streets much safer. They are located at Redland Boulevard in King Farm, near Rockville and Wootton high schools and near the Rockville Metro station. When activated, traffic signals will turn to red in all four directions,

"All of these devices help, but in the end, both drivers and pedestrians need to take extra care to make our streets safer."

— Larry Marcus,
Chief of Traffic and Transportation



One approach to safer crosswalks: *The unique markings and bright yellow paddle sign at this Middle Lane intersection.*

leaving pedestrians a safe path to cross in any direction.

- **Pedestrian crossing warning beacons:** These beacons alert drivers that a pedestrian is crossing the street. When the beacon is activated, drivers must proceed with caution or stop.

"The purpose of these devices is to heighten drivers' awareness of pedestrians and bicyclists," said Larry Marcus,

Rockville's chief of traffic and transportation. "However, crossing streets safely remains a dual responsibility. Those crossing streets must remember that they have much more to lose in an accident than the vehicle coming at them. A ticket to a driver for violating traffic laws will never equal the damage a pedestrian will suffer if struck by a car. All of these devices help, but in

the end, both drivers and pedestrians need to take extra care to make our streets safer." ■

CALL 240-314-8505 FOR MORE INFO



Two pedestrians are safely able to cross Chapman Avenue near the Twinbrook Metro Station thanks to one of the City's illuminated crosswalks. New hi-tech crosswalks that include lights in the pavement are part of the Mayor and Council's effort to slow traffic and increase pedestrian safety.

New Bus Shelters Arrive in Rockville

Rockville residents who sometimes must brave the weather to ride area buses found their commute becoming a little easier recently, with the installation of 16 new bus shelters since March 2004.

The new refuges are part of a Department of Public Works Traffic and Transportation Division project that involves installing a total of 25 bus shelters throughout the City. The new shelters look the same as existing bus shelters in the City that are maintained by Montgomery County.

Contributions by developers working on projects in the City funded some of the new shelters, which are placed near the associated developments. The rest of the shelters are funded by a \$50,000 grant awarded to the City by the Maryland Transit Administration, under the Smart Growth Transit Program.

Bus stop usage, neighborhood interest and available right-of-way space will determine the locations for the shelters that will be added in the coming months.

With the addition of the new shelters, there are a total of 477 bus stops and 56 bus shelters in the City. The Mayor and Council continue to evaluate ways to add even more bus shelters, which are estimated to cost about \$7,000 per unit. ■

CALL 240-314-8527 FOR MORE INFO

Locations of New Shelters Since March

1. E. Jefferson St. @ Maryland Ave. (west side)
2. E. Jefferson St. @ Congressional La. (east side)
3. E. Jefferson St. @ Halpine Rd. (east side)
4. Chapman Ave. @ Bouic Ave. (east side)
5. Chapman Ave. @ Bouic Ave. (west side)
6. 1401 Research Blvd. (east side)
7. 1401 Research Blvd. (west side)
8. Rockville Pike @ Templeton Pl. (east side)
9. Rockville Pike @ VOB dealership (east side)
10. Hungerford Dr. @ Beall Ave. (east side)
11. 451 Hungerford Dr. @ Orange Ball Billiards (east side)
12. 451 Hungerford Dr. @ Orange Ball Billiards (west side)
13. Veirs Mill Rd. @ Edmonston Dr. (east side)
14. Baltimore Rd. @ Twinbrook Pkwy. (east side)
15. 2131 Veirs Mill Rd. (west side)
16. 2800 Tower Oaks Blvd. (west side)



BORROW SOME BOOKS, THEN GET ON THE BUS... *One of the first bus shelters added as part of a new Department of Public Works Traffic and Transportation Division project is located near the Rockville Library in Town Center. A total of 25 have been installed throughout the City.*

Storm Drain Improvements at Aberdeen Road and Calvert Road

The developer for the Thirty Oaks subdivision on West Montgomery Avenue will be completing storm drain improvements for the storm drain system that crosses Aberdeen Road at the intersection of Calvert Road. The improvements were required as part of City approvals to reduce the potential for street flooding.

The contractor has finished installing the storm drain and is expected

to complete the final paving by mid-September.

Questions or concerns about the scope of work can be directed to civil engineer John Scabis at 240-314-8514 or at jscabis@rockvillemd.gov. Questions during construction, can be directed to engineering technician John Leasure at 240-314-8545 or at jleasure@rockvillemd.gov. ■

CALL 240-314-8500 FOR MORE INFO



NEW RIDE ON ROUTE IN ROCKVILLE... *A Ride On bus driver helps a bicyclist learn how to attach her bike to the front of a bus outside of the new Rockville Regional Transportation Center on Bike to Work Day in May. The transportation center will be a stop on a new Ride On bus route that will take commuters from Falls Grove to the Shady Grove Metro Station.*

RRTC at Falls Grove: Get on the Ride On Bus, Starting Tuesday, Sept. 7

One of the alluring concepts evident when plans were first presented for what has become the mixed-use development at Falls Grove was that the project was an excellent example of Smart Growth. Falls Grove was close to other development and within easy access of public transportation.

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, that access becomes even easier with the grand opening of the Rockville Regional Transportation Center that is part of the Falls Grove Village Center. The opening will be marked by the start of Ride On bus service (Route 43) that will provide convenient service to the Shady Grove Metro Station.

"This is a big step in making commuting a little easier for the entire northwest section of the City," said Katherine Kelly, a City transportation planner in the Department of Public Works. "Once people realize the bus service is available, we expect it to become very popular—just as a shuttle to Metro has become a major success in the King Farm neighborhood."

Ride On will make stops at the RRTC every 30 minutes during midweek peak morning (6-9 a.m.) and afternoon (3-

6:30 p.m.) hours. There will be no service other than during peak times. The estimated travel time between RRTC and the Metro station is less than 20 minutes.

The RRTC is far more than a bus stop. The center will have bike racks for residents who want to pedal from home and then catch the bus. Information to help commuters also will be readily available, including city bicycle maps; regional and county bike maps; maps of the sidewalk network throughout Falls Grove and the City; Ride On schedules and maps, Metro System maps; and schedules and maps of MARC rail service.

In the near future, RRTC is hoping to add bike lockers, rental bicycles and tool kits for servicing bikes. ■



Ride On will make stops at the RRTC every 30 minutes during midweek peak morning (6-9 a.m.) and afternoon (3-6:30 p.m.) hours. There will be no service other than during peak times. The estimated travel time between RRTC and the Metro station is less than 20 minutes.

Johnson Drive Scheduled to Receive Important Improvements this Fall

The Department of Public Works has hired Concrete General, Inc. to complete a number of important improvements along Johnson Drive. These improvements include paving the existing gravel driveway between Frederick Avenue and Isreal Park, grading and paving Johnson Drive, and providing a new vehicular and pedestrian entrance into the park. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of November.

For more information contact chief of contract management Mike Wilhelm at 240-314-8542 or by e-mail at mwilhelm@rockville.md.gov. ■

CALL 240-314-8500 FOR MORE INFO